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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

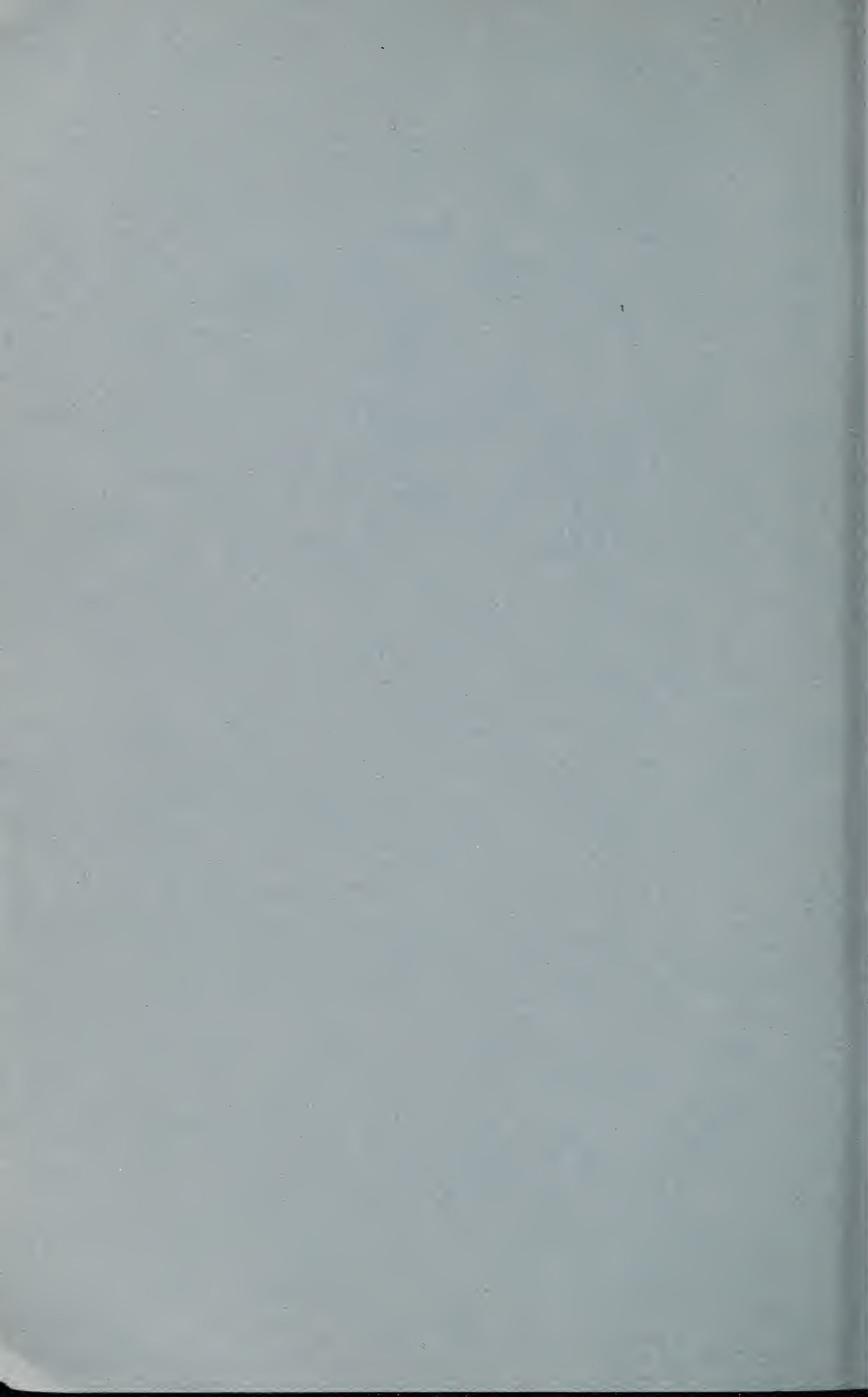
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1962

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

GEORGE LEEDER, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.A.P.H.I.

J. B. DUCKWORTH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

C. MATHESON, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 1-10-62)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors :

T. W. HOWELLS

F. G. PALMER (Resigned 19-8-62)

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
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1962

*To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

I have pleasure in presenting my report on certain aspects of the health of the community during 1962, together with some details of the work of the staff of the Health Department during the same period.

The various statistics are set out in roughly the same form as in previous years, and compare reasonably favourably both with those and with the figures for the country as a whole during the same year.

The clearance of unfit houses, whether judged by the rehousing of occupants of houses which had been the subject of earlier statutory action or by the initiation of further administrative action, was, as the recorded figures show clearly, somewhat expedited in 1962.

As will be seen from the Surveyor's section of the report, preparatory work on schemes for the improvement of sewerage and sewage disposal in the District was fully maintained during the year. While this extensive work may not show much tangible result for another year or two, it can reasonably be claimed that the work now being done should result in improvements during the next five years or so of which the Council will have good reason to be proud.

As regards the staff of the Department, the year saw first the qualification of Mr. F. G. Palmer as a Public Health Inspector and then his departure to gain further experience in a different area. This was followed by the appointment of Mr. C. Matheson as an Additional Public Health Inspector, in order to strengthen the staff of the Department for the increased work that lies ahead in connection with the inspection of meat at slaughterhouses. It will also give the Inspectors some relief from the large amount of overtime work done in this field during recent years.

I gladly acknowledge the continued help and co-operation received from Members and Officers of the Council.

C. E. JAMISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1963.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Particulars of area, population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of all property subject to rates and the product of a penny rate are set out below in the same form as in previous years :—

Area (in acres)	83,906
Population (as estimated by Registrar General)	40,710
Number of Inhabited Houses	11,875
Total Rateable Value	£454,541
Net Product of a Penny Rate	£1,759

The area was, of course unchanged, while the figures for population resumed the upward trend interrupted in the previous year by the temporary reduction in the number of army personnel stationed at Whittington Barracks. The actual increase in population recorded appears to agree quite well with the increase shown in the number of houses in occupation. No doubt, figures for both will, in future years, reflect the vast increase in house building which is now taking place in at least one parish. The figures relating to rateable value are recorded for the last time on the basis of the old valuation, and show the same steady increases characteristic of recent years.

VITAL STATISTICS

The most significant statistics, which are revealing in relation to at least certain aspects of the health of the community, are set out below under the same headings as in recent years :—

Live Births—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	345	341	686
Illegitimate	22	20	42
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	367	361	728
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	...	17·9	

Still Births—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4	7	11
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	...	14·9	

Deaths in Infants Under One Week—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	5	15
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	10	5	15

Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	12	6	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Total					12	6	18
Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births					...	24.7	

Deaths in Infants Under One Year—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	15	8	23
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Total					15	8	23
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births					...	31.6	

Deaths (All Ages)					Male	Female	Total
...	...	...	...	...	244	224	468
Death Rate per 1,000 Population					...	11.5	

It may be noted that 43 of the total of 739 births, live and still, were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in every 17 births. This figure compares unfavourably with proportions of one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959 and 1958, one in 22 in 1957 and one in 28 in 1956, being a higher proportion than in any of the earlier years mentioned.

As in earlier years, the figures relating to still births and infant mortality were, fortunately, much too small in total to permit of any significant comparison between the fate of those children born in wedlock and those born outside it.

The following table shows how the figures for 1962 compare with those for the preceding ten years :—

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (all ages)
1952	41,970	14.4	18.1	18.2	33.1	7.7
1953	43,180	13.5	15.2	18.9	22.3	8.3
1954	42,580	13.6	13.7	26.0	25.9	10.3
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5

It will be seen that the birth rate for 1962 was relatively high, possibly reflecting the arrival in the district of young couples, where the wife was still of childbearing age. This factor may be an increasing one during the next few years. While it tends to increase the birth rate, the factor

mentioned should tend also to decrease the death rate. Of the other figures set out, the still birth rate is very low, as compared with earlier years, while the neonatal and infant death rates are rather higher than in other years. This is, of course, quite a common combination of circumstances, as a reduction in the proportion of still births tends to be followed by a fairly high mortality rate among the premature and other rather delicate infants who have survived the hazards occurring prior to the moment of birth. The care of these rather delicate infants is a challenge to the services now provided for their wellbeing.

After adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the birth and death comparability figures provided by the Registrar General, to allow for the difference of age and sex distribution of the population in Lichfield Rural District from that of England and Wales as a whole, the local figures can be compared with the national ones as follows :—

Place	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (all ages)
LICHFIELD R.D.	17.7	14.9	24.7	31.6	10.7
England and Wales	18.0	18.1	14.9	21.4	11.9

As in the local comparison with previous years, the outstanding fact is the unusually low figure for still births in the local figures, which must be taken in conjunction with the fact that the local neonatal and infant death rates were, on this occasion, higher than the national average.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of persons ordinarily resident in the District who died during the year, regardless of the place where death actually occurred, together with the figures for the previous four years :—

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total 1958	Total 1959	Total 1960	Total 1961	1962		
					Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	5	3	1	0	1	1
Tuberculosis, other than Respiratory ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	14	14	10	7	2	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	10	8	14	8	11	1	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	8	6	10	9	0	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	4	2	1	4	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	28	38	37	38	14	20	34
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	0	1	2	1	0	1
Diabetes	4	2	4	1	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	39	53	61	58	28	25	53
Coronary Disease, Angina	51	67	72	102	50	29	79
Hypertension with Heart Disease	9	8	17	12	4	5	9
Other Heart Disease	84	61	59	55	25	29	54
Other Circulatory Disease	15	19	21	17	6	10	16
Influenza	3	14	1	9	3	6	9
Pneumonia	19	39	28	42	20	30	50
Bronchitis	26	24	20	19	23	8	31
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	5	7	8	5	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	1	5	2	2	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	1	1	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	6	2	2	5	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	9	6	3	1	3	0	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
Congenital Malformations	2	4	5	8	3	1	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	48	45	48	62	24	29	53
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	4	12	8	4	4	8
All Other Accidents	7	13	11	6	7	3	10
Suicide	4	5	1	3	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	402	450	458	492	244	222	466

Of these deaths, 23 occurred, as already recorded, in infants under one year of age, while two occurred in children of between one year and five years, five in children of between five years and fifteen years, 163 in persons between fifteen years and 65 years, and the remaining 273 in persons over 65 years of age.

As set out in tabular form in an earlier paragraph, fifteen of the infant deaths occurred before the end of the first week of life, three further deaths between the end of the first and the end of the fourth week and the remaining five deaths between the end of the fourth week and the end of the twelfth month of life, all these deaths occurring in legitimate infants. As in other recent years, the vast majority of deaths were attributed to prematurity, with congenital abnormalities accounting for most of the remaining deaths.

Of the two deaths occurring in children of between one year and five years, one was attributed to bronchopneumonia occurring in a child with various congenital abnormalities predisposing to that condition, while the other was due to an acute medical condition of somewhat obscure origin.

As regards the five deaths occurring in school children, two followed traffic accidents, while one was attributed to congenital abnormality, one to a type of cancer which occurs in children and the fifth to nephritis. It will be noted that only one death out of the five, that due to nephritis, was in any way related to the common infectious diseases of childhood.

Of the nine deaths attributed to influenza, only one occurred in a person under 60 years and only four in persons under 70 years of age, thus confirming previous impressions that this disease is not now a very significant factor in mortality except in elderly persons, some of whom would, no doubt, be in poor health before succumbing this infection.

The numbers of deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis were both rather larger than in other recent years. Apart from this fact, the picture was the usual one in each disease, with more male than female deaths from bronchitis, more female than male deaths from pneumonia, and with most of the deaths in both diseases occurring in later middle age and in the elderly. It would appear that the difference in the smoking habits of the sexes, over a period of many years, is the most likely major cause of the higher incidence of bronchitis in the male than in the female, though greater exposure of the male to atmospheric pollution may play a minor part. Neither of these factors affect the incidence of pneumonia in the same degree as they do in the case of bronchitis, which probably accounts for the fact that the numbers of deaths from pneumonia in the sexes tend to be comparable with the numbers of the respective sexes in the elderly age groups.

Lung cancer, another disease associated with the smoking of cigarettes, shows a slightly higher than usual total of victims, and the usual preponderance of men among those dying from the disease. While most of those dying were elderly, deaths occurred at the ages of 44, 46, 54, 58 and

59 years. These deaths among men in age-groups which tend to have heavy economic responsibilities in relation to their families constitute an important factor in the effects of the disease. While the report published during the year by the Royal College of Physicians on the relationship between smoking and various diseases, including cancer of the lung, aroused intense public interest, it would be unrealistic to suppose that it or any other measure of health education has, as yet, had any considerable effect in deterring children and adolescents from adopting the smoking habit. While I would not advocate restrictions on smoking by the individual, I do feel that the prohibition of advertising and the sale of cigarettes to children must precede any large-scale attempt at health education in this important field.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents included two in young children, who were knocked down by a farm vehicle in one instance and by a motor van in another, two in adults who were occupants of motor cars involved in collisions, while the remaining four accidents involved adult pedestrians who were knocked down by motor vehicles.

As regards accidental deaths due to causes other than motor vehicle accidents, these mainly resulted from falls occurring in the elderly or in those in late middle age, but one death occurred in a child of two years, who died from poisoning after drinking cresol, an accident which illustrates all too tragically the dangers which beset the young when they acquire the ability to walk and climb while still lacking the ability to discriminate between safe and dangerous actions.

The three deaths resulting from suicide all occurred in middle-aged persons, two in men who took their lives by hanging and one in a woman who died by drowning.

It will be noted with regret that, for the first time for some years, two deaths were related to pregnancy, one being due to complications occurring during labour and the other to complications occurring at a later stage of the confinement.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also shows, for comparison, the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years :—

Disease	Total 1952	Total 1953	Total 1954	Total 1955	Total 1956	Total 1957	Total 1958	Total 1959	Total 1960	Total 1961	Total 1962
Scarlet Fever ...	42	59	65	16	20	27	35	43	39	15	4
Whooping Cough	75	101	52	20	62	79	22	27	50	13	11
Measles ...	109	690	13	461	23	655	258	196	61	768	56
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	3	1	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	44	59	42	19	20	17	33	69	34	59	26
Dysentery ...	23	2	18	23	26	6	8	23	—	9	21
Food Poisoning	—	6	—	—	4	10	6	3	61	6	18
Erysipelas ...	4	4	11	6	11	5	3	1	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	5	2	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—

It is again satisfactory to be able to record that no deaths resulted from any of these illnesses, with the notable exception of pneumonia, referred to in more detail in a later paragraph.

The incidence of scarlet fever was even lower than in recent years. As no prophylactic inoculation was in use, it is obvious that the very low incidence was due partly to the reduced virulence of the organism and partly to energetic and successful treatment of those cases which did occur, which rendered them non-infectious at a relatively early stage of the illness.

The similarly low incidence of measles was quite a different story, as it was merely due to the fact that 1962 was not one of the alternate years of high incidence. The present year, when the figures are available, will show a vastly different picture, with figures again approaching the very high level recorded for 1961. In view of the very considerable suffering of the large number of children involved when epidemics come, and the accompanying disturbance of normal family life and activities, it can only be hoped that the prophylactic vaccine now in use on a limited scale in certain parts of the country will be passed, with or without modification, as suitable for general use in time to affect the incidence of the next epidemic

It will be seen from the table that the number of cases of whooping cough was the lowest recorded in any recent year, and reflects the considerable degree of protection given by the vaccine which has now been in use for a number of years. In view of the very great danger to life which still exists when the infection occurs in young babies, the great diminution in the chance of their being infected by older children represents a very great advance in public health.

The continued absence of cases of poliomyelitis, whether paralytic or otherwise, is also a very gratifying part of this report, and well justifies, in my view, the great efforts which have been put into the various vaccination campaigns. Although prophecy is always risky, it would seem that the solution to this problem has now been found, and that continued effort along present lines will prevent any recurrence of the disease on a major scale.

Although a fairly large number of cases of pneumonia were notified, it will be noted that the figure is smaller than that recorded for the number of deaths from the disease. The apparent anomaly is due partly to not all cases of pneumonia being notifiable and partly to the omission of many medical practitioners to notify a disease where the case for its being notifiable is not very obvious or, in fact, very strong on public health grounds. I personally feel that this disease could, and may well, be removed from the list of notifiable infectious diseases in the not too distant future.

The number of cases of dysentery was larger than in most recent years. All the cases were of the usual relatively mild type. The vast majority occurred in young children, mostly in Armitage and Burntwood Parishes. Efforts were made, in co-operation with the family doctors concerned, to control the infection, particularly in infant schools, where it is most likely to spread, without too great a disruption either of family life or school work. These efforts proved generally successful.

The number of cases of food poisoning notified, 18, was the highest number notified in any recent year except 1960. The number of cases was increased by the occurrence of several small family outbreaks, each involving a number of different persons in the family. Where the infecting organism could be identified, it was found on each occasion to be salmonella typhimurium. Typing of the organism at the laboratory revealed a strong likelihood in the case of one family outbreak of a connection with a recent outbreak in a neighbouring local authority area. Through the co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health of that area, it was ascertained that a professional food handler employed there, who had been passed, after full investigation, as no longer a "carrier" of organisms, was again acting as a "carrier." Appropriate action was, of course, taken by the Medical Officer of Health concerned to eliminate the suspected source of infection. The necessary action was also taken in other cases, including one sporadic case of infection, probably acquired abroad, occurring in a boarding school, to prevent the spread of infection to contacts.

None of the other infectious diseases notified during the year gave rise to any serious anxiety or the need for preventive action.

While no case of smallpox was notified, the outbreaks in other parts of the country caused much work and not a little anxiety. A few patients were seen in order to confirm the alternative diagnosis of chickenpox, in view of the importance of avoiding the admission of any possible case of smallpox to an ordinary infectious diseases hospital, as distinct from the hospital staffed and equipped to admit actual or suspected cases of smallpox. A number of contacts, mostly fairly remote, of cases of smallpox occurring in other parts of the country were vaccinated, where necessary, and kept under observation until the end of the period when symptoms and signs could manifest themselves. Steps had also to be taken, rather reluctantly, to deal with the enormous numbers of people, not known to be contacts of actual or suspected cases, who demanded vaccination against smallpox. While large numbers of these persons were vaccinated, equally reluctantly, by their family doctors, and smaller numbers by myself, I would emphasise that vaccination of adults, who have never been vaccinated before, against smallpox is by no means free from risks of serious complications, and cannot really be justified in circumstances such as those existing in the early part of 1962. Vaccination of young children, preferably during the second year of life, and revaccination when medically recommended is, of course, an entirely different matter, and should receive much more attention than it does from parents.

As in all recent years, no case of diphtheria was notified. As this fortunate state of affairs will not necessarily continue, unless adequate precautions are taken, immunisation against diphtheria, a very safe procedure, is strongly recommended to the parents of all children. Our local arrangements provide for it to be undertaken, in combination with immunisation against whooping cough and tetanus, towards the end of the first year of life, with "booster" doses for diphtheria and tetanus at the time of admission to school and at 8-12 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and of deaths from the disease, are set out below in the same form as in previous years :—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
From 15—25 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	2	1	—	—	1	—	—

It will be seen that four of the total of 7 cases of pulmonary infection occurred in middle-aged or elderly persons, which is, of course, the typical picture of the incidence of the disease as found during recent years.

The one death recorded occurred in a person who had been suffering from this disease for a number of years.

The following table shows the number of new cases and of deaths from the disease during 1962 and the preceding ten years :—

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1952	14	10	6	4	1	2	—	2
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	—	—
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	—	1
1955	10	8	2	3	—	—	—	—
1956	9	9	2	1	—	—	—	—
1957	14	10	1	1	1	—	—	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	—	—	—
1959	8	8	—	—	4	1	—	—
1960	5	5	—	1	3	1	—	—
1961	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
1962	5	2	1	—	—	1	—	—

The figures, although slightly less satisfactory than those for 1961, illustrate again the vast improvement in the position that has taken place during recent years. This improvement is shown both by the reduced number of cases of new infection and the smaller number of deaths. As recorded on a previous occasion, the improvement can be attributed to the efficiency of modern drug treatment both in curing the individual and in rendering him non-infectious at an earlier stage, complemented by a continued energetic search for, and investigation of, contacts. Arrangements for this co-operation continued to work smoothly, as did those for admission of patients to hospital during the early stages of treatment.

The relative freedom from new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and the continued absence of deaths from that variety of the disease again illustrate the value of measures taken in earlier years to free the nation's dairy herd from tuberculosis, and give the lie to those who opposed such action on the alleged ground that it would remove the beneficial effect of continued small doses of infection in building up resistance to the disease in the individual.

ANTHRAX

No case of anthrax occurring in a human being was notified during the year, but one case did occur in an animal. The continued absence of human infection can reasonably be attributed to the efficient and conscientious way in which affected animals are dealt with by the police.

VENEREAL DISEASE

As in previous years, no information is available as to the incidence of the various venereal diseases, due to the fact that patients are treated, along with those from many other districts, at the hospitals at Walsall, Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent and Stafford.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements continued as recorded in earlier reports, the services of both County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories being used on a large number of occasions. I would again pay tribute to the willing and valuable co-operation received from the staffs of both laboratories.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

The availability of beds for those elderly sick persons requiring them proved much more satisfactory in 1962, taken as a whole, than in other recent years. The position never improved, however, to the point where beds could be made available, on request, to all persons requiring them. Consequently, it was necessary to continue to check home conditions, in certain instances, in order to enable the available beds to be allocated to those who, by reason of home circumstances, were most in need of them.

The same type of action was continued to ensure that maternity beds were made available not only to those expectant mothers with a specific medical need but also to certain mothers having their first babies, to mothers over 35 years of age and to those who had already had four or more confinements, as experience has shown that the risks to the mother in these groups are greater than in others.

As in all recent years, the availability of hospital beds for those patients suffering from infectious diseases, and in need of them, proved to be quite adequate, no doubt due to the greatly reduced number of such patients needing admission to hospital.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Arrangements relating to the domiciliary nursing, clinic, home help, immunisation and ambulance services remained broadly as in earlier years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

After an interval of some years since any such action was necessary, I felt compelled during the year to recommend to the Council that application be made, through a Magistrates' Court, for compulsory removal of an elderly man to hospital. Needless to say, this action was only taken because of urgent personal circumstances, which in this instance were endangering life. Fortunately, it was not necessary to ask for any extension of the original period of detention, as the patient stayed in hospital, on a voluntary basis, after the end of the period.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Arrangements for inspection of premises where food is prepared for or sold to the public, and for the investigation of complaints by the public, continued as in earlier years, and are dealt with in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report.

I am informed by the County Medical Officer that 32 samples of milk and 143 other samples of foods and alcoholic beverages were taken by the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, in the District during 1962. All the samples of milk and all but three of the other samples of food, etc., were found to be genuine. The three exceptions included two samples of orange drink and one of fruit cake. Informal action was taken in relation to the amount of potable fruit in the orange drink and the labelling of the fruit cake.

The results of the examination of milk for cleanliness, efficient pasteurisation and sterilization and the presence of tubercle bacilli were as follows :—

Grade of Milk	DETAILS (AND SIGNIFICANCE) OF TESTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion)		Biological (Tuber- culosis)	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
T.T.	12	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
T.T. (Past.)	65	1	67	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	67	4	75	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	—
Totals	144	5	142	—	43	—	8	—

The results show an improvement on the previous year in relation to the cleanliness of milk, with five unsatisfactory samples out of 149, as against 12 unsatisfactory samples out of 122 in 1961. They also show the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilisation procedures. Although the number of samples examined for tubercle organisms was small, it is satisfactory to note that all were free from infection.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, has supplied information indicating that the water supply to the District continued to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Chemical and bacteriological examination of samples was carried out regularly at all eleven pumping stations, from the service reservoir and re-pumping station at Gentleshaw and also from various taps and hydrants. With the exception of one sample out of 52 from the reservoir, one out of 53 from the re-pumping station and seven out of 153 from taps and hydrants, all were free from coliform bacteria. Chlorination was carried out in all instances of possible contamination due to burst or damaged pipes, etc.

The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, 116 samples of tap water being all free from any appreciable quantity of lead.

As regards the availability of piped water supplies, Mr. Taylor states that, at 31st December, 1962, 12,087 houses had an individual piped water supply, while 5 houses were supplied by standpipes.

Although not mentioned specifically by Mr. Taylor in his report, it is known that the water supply in all parts of the District is deficient in natural fluoride. It seems likely that, in the light of the present attitude of the Minister of Health, steps may be taken by the County Council, in the fairly near future, to have this deficiency remedied.

HOUSING

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to rehousing, and its effect on the waiting list, during 1962 was as set out below :—

Waiting List at 1st January, 1962	...	...	774
Rehoused in New Houses during 1962		...	272
Rehoused in Relet Houses during 1962		...	72
Waiting List at 31st December, 1962	...	...	665

Of the families rehoused during the year, 61 families were from unfit houses in respect of which the Council had taken statutory action, of whom 27 families went into new dwellings and 34 into relet dwellings.

Taking the housing position as a whole, it is obvious that, although substantial progress was made during the year, much still remains to be done before the actual housing need, as expressed in applications for Council houses, is met.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during 1962 in relation to houses unfit for human habitation :—

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
2, 4 and 6 Old Road, Armitage.	Demolition Orders, 26th January, 1962
64 Chase Road, Burntwood.	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd February, 1962
Little Harlaston Farm, Harlaston.	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd February, 1962
Two Cottages, Pouk Lane, Hilton.	Undertaking Accepted, 23rd March, 1962
Lilac Cottage, Newtown, Kings Bromley.	Demolition Order, 23rd March, 1962
11 Rugeley Road, Armitage.	Undertaking Accepted, 27th April, 1962
Ivy Cottage, Newtown, Kings Bromley.	Undertaking Accepted, 27th April, 1962
17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 & 35, Hospital Road, Triangle, Chasetown.	Undertakings Accepted, 25th May, 1962
402, 404, 406, 408 and 410, Rugeley Road, Hednesford.	Undertakings Accepted, 25th May, 1962
Two Cottages adjoining Holly Bush Inn, Edingale.	Undertakings Accepted, 25th May, 1962
2 and 4 Rugeley Road, Armitage.	Undertaking Accepted, 25th May, 1962
Roundabouts Cottage, Kings Bromley.	Demolition Order, 27th July, 1962
48 Princess Street, Chase Terrace.	Undertaking Accepted, 27th July, 1962
Lea Hall Cottage, Armitage.	Undertaking Accepted, 27th July, 1962
30, 32 and 34 High Street, Chase Terrace.	Undertaking Accepted, 28th September, 1962
Woodland Cottages, Oak Lane, Chase Terrace.	Undertaking Accepted, 28th September, 1962
Black and White Cottage, Elmhurst.	Closing Order, 23rd November, 1962

The total of 37 houses dealt with, so far as statutory action was concerned, in 1962 compared with totals of 25 houses in 1961, 70 houses in 1960, 18 houses in 1959, 8 houses in 1958, 37 houses in 1957, 22 houses in 1956 and 19 houses in 1955. The relatively large number of houses in and around Armitage in the list, including some in Kings Bromley Parish, was, of course, due to the desirability of synchronising action in relation to unfit houses with the construction of the large new group of council houses at Handsacre. By dealing with these unfit houses at this particular time, it was possible to arrange for rehousing to follow relatively quickly on administrative action, a practice which is always desirable but often impracticable. The fairly large number of Undertakings accepted was largely due to this being the simplest procedure when the owner is desirous, and capable, of reconstructing the buildings or redeveloping the site in a manner acceptable both to him and to the Council.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

The necessary inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, the following work being dealt with during the year :—

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	18	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	2	—	—
TOTAL	89	23	1	—

The table set out below shows the defects found, and action taken, as a result of the inspections carried out :—

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	1	—	1	—

Very little outwork is carried out in this District during the year, and in fact only the same three outworkers have been notified as in the year before. It may be stated that outwork is carried out for therapeutic purposes at St. Matthew's Hospital. This is of course quite different from outwork carried out in the house, and the conditions are most satisfactory. Particulars of outworkers are set out below :—

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel } Making etc.,	1	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	—	—	—	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS

(Prepared by Mr. J. G. Rimand, M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor).

Generally throughout the district, disposal works have been well maintained by the workmen employed by you. During the year schemes have been prepared for Colton, Whittington and Stonnall, and the preparation of schemes for the other villages in the programme is continuing.

Alrewas —Sewage disposal works at Alrewas are working satisfactorily, with a continually increasing flow from the village. As a result, the works is now operating beyond its designed capacity.

Proposals for extending this works are included in the programme of future schemes.

In the village of Fradley, the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory, This will be dealt with at the same time as the extensions to the Alrewas works.

Armitage and Longdon.—The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes is working satisfactorily. The small sewage disposal works at Armitage has had its reserve capacity absorbed, and proposals have been prepared for replacing same with a pumping plant discharging into the main disposal works. Proposals are being prepared for the extension of this works to deal with the large scheme for miners' houses proposed by the National Coal Board to be carried out at Handsacre.

Brindley Heath.—This disposal works is working satisfactorily, as is also the smaller works at Penkridge Bank.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily but the very considerable development now taking place in this parish has severely strained the capacity at the two sewage disposal works.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have approved proposals for the enlargement and modernisation of the sewerage and sewage disposal system in this parish under which the works at Chasetown will be abolished and the whole of the sewage taken to the Peters Lane works, the area of which will be considerably enlarged in order to deal with same.

In view of the urgency, tenders are being obtained immediately for the first section of this scheme, which will involve the laying of surface water sewers in order not to delay development in this parish.

Clifton Campville.—The disposal works and sewerage system are working satisfactorily.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but the proposals for the new works and sewerage system have been approved by the Council for submission to the Ministry for consideration.

Curborough and Elmhurst.—The pumping station disposal works in the Elmhurst portion of this parish are working satisfactorily.

Drayton Bassett.—The scheme for the construction of the new disposal works and the completion of the sewerage of the village has been approved by the Ministry, and tenders obtained with a view to the work being commenced early in the new year.

Edingale.—The small pumping station disposal works which deals with the council houses is working satisfactorily.

The general sewerage system of the village however is most unsatisfactory, and the new scheme for a combined works with the adjoining village of Harlaston is now in an advanced stage of preparation.

Farewell and Chorley.—The works dealing with the council houses is working satisfactorily, and the proposals to sewer this village and connect same to the Burntwood scheme have been approved by the Ministry.

Fazeley.—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Joint Sewage Committee, passing from the main sewer in the Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. The pumping stations at Brookend, Fazeley and Longwood are working satisfactorily.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working to capacity, but the Newtown scheme which was completed last year is still awaiting development to bring same into proper operation.

The pumping station at Triangle is working satisfactorily, but will be replaced with a much larger station under the Burntwood scheme.

Hamstall Ridware.—It is anticipated that proposals for the sewerage of this village will be submitted to the Council for consideration during the coming year.

Harlaston.—The disposal works in this village is operating as well as can be expected, having regard to the increased flow it is dealing with and also the limited site. A new scheme for this village is in an advanced state of preparation, which will do away with the present disposal works, and all the sewerage will be pumped into proposed joint works with Edingale for treatment.

Hopwas.—These works, which were reconstructed before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—Proposals for the re-sewerage of this village, together with a new disposal works, will be submitted for consideration by the Council during the coming year.

Mavesyn Ridware.—The small pumping station and disposal plants constructed in Hill Ridware and Blithbury, in order to deal with sewage from the Council houses, are working satisfactorily.

The scheme for Hill Ridware is now being carried out, and it is anticipated that work will be completed during the coming year. This will enable the new housing site to be developed, the sewage from which will be pumped to the new disposal works.

Shenstone.—The Shenstone sewage disposal works is working satisfactorily, as are also the pumping stations at Lynn Lane, Little Aston and Wood End.

The disposal works at Stonnall are coping satisfactorily with the increase flow from the development now taking place at Stonnall, and further improvements carried out during the year have helped. Proposals for the reconstruction of this works have been approved by the Council, and are now under consideration by the Ministry.

Streethay.—This works was reconstructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. camp and is working satisfactorily.

Swinfen and Packington.—The disposal works, to deal with the Council's housing estate, is working very satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works in this parish is working satisfactorily, and the Ministry have approved proposals for including the Muckley Corner end of the parish in the Burntwood scheme.

Whittington.—Disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily, and proposals have been approved by the Council and are now under consideration by the Ministry for the replacement of this works so as to deal with the considerable development now taking place in the village and also to receive the sewage from the Barracks.

Wigginton.—Conditions in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewered are quite good, the disposal being carried out by Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Elford, Gentleshaw, Hints and Weeford.—Schemes for Elford, Hints and Gentleshaw are in an advanced state of preparation, and will be submitted to the Council for their consideration during the coming year.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the work of your Public Health Inspectors for the year 1962.

Meat inspection duties at slaughterhouses in various parts of the District formed a major part of the work of the Department. A total of 89,531 animals were slaughtered during the year compared to 51,329 animals in 1961, an increase of 38,202 animals. The amount of meat condemned also increased from 34 tons in 1961 to nearly 50 tons. Consideration was given by the Council to this work and bearing in mind the possible increase that may arise when new legislation is formulated concerning meat inspection, approval was given to the appointment of a further inspector. This appointment was filled by Mr. C. Matheson who commenced duties on 1st October, 1962.

The Refuse Collection and Disposal Service has again caused some concern and in order to maintain the efficiency of the collection service the Council approved an increase in the number of vehicles operating and also in the labour force available. Still further consideration will have to be given to this service both in respect of the Collection and also the Disposal of refuse having in mind the rapid construction of houses now being undertaken in various parishes.

During the year the Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. F. G. Palmer, was successful in securing his final qualifications as a Public Health Inspector and subsequently secured an appointment with the Borough of Kendal.

Finally I wish to thank all Members and Officers of the Council for their co-operation and continued support throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE LEEDER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

July, 1963.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1962 — 31st March, 1963

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The service continued, as in previous years, on a weekly collection basis and was successful in that very few complaints arose and these were of a minor nature. The strain which I mentioned in my last year's Report became more evident and resulted in the need to have the spare vehicle taken into regular service.

In order to staff this machine the labour force was increased by three men.

This change did not take effect until late in the year and the full effect will not be seen until the subsequent year.

However, the high rate of building continues and it is clear that the review of staff and equipment must be made a regular event so long as this trend is evident.

The approximate unit cost of collection and disposal was as follows:—

	£	s	d
Net cost of collection per ton	1	16	11
Net cost of disposal per ton		4	7
Net cost of collection per 1,000 population ...	716	0	0
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 population ...	89	0	0
Net cost of collection per 1,000 premises ...	2082	0	0
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 premises ...	259	0	0

Total cost of Service for year under review is, so far as can be ascertained pending the Annual Audit £32,777.

From these figures it may be seen that the bulk of the expenditure occurs on the collection costs. Disposal costs at approximately 12% of the collection costs are quite low. During this year the Council did carry out further investigations into the possibility of installing pulverisation equipment and these enquiries were continued into the current year. There seems little doubt that equipment of this nature is the best possible way of disposing of refuse in an innocuous manner.

The Council's Salvage Service has continued to operate but is justified only because of its effect in keeping the bulk of paper and cardboard off the tipping areas.

(b) "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign.

The emptying of litter bins in the various parishes has been continued throughout the year and there is no doubt that the appearance of the Countryside has benefited from this service.

HOUSING

During the year under review the Council pressed forward with their new slum clearance programme and as a result of this the following houses were dealt with :—

(a) Housing Act, 1957—Section 16 (Demolition Orders).

A total of 37 houses was subject to this procedure. In respect of 5 houses Demolition Orders were made, in one case a Closing Order was made and in the remaining 31 instances the Council accepted Undertakings from the various Owners.

(b) Repairs to Houses.

A total of 54 houses was repaired as a result of Informal Action and a further 11 houses were repaired following the service of Notices under the Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961.

(c) Rent Act, 1957—Certificates of Disrepair.

The same pattern was followed as in the previous year. Throughout the whole period only four tenants took the necessary action to initiate the procedure. Of these four, only one resulted in the issue of a Certificate of Disrepair, two others were the subject of Undertakings by the Landlords and the last house became vacant before the procedure could be completed. This serves to underline my previous comments that the cumbersome procedure undoubtedly deters many tenants from making use of this legislation.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year, a total of 115 visits was made by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself as a result of enquiries relating to Improvement Grants.

The following tables show details of these applications :—

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works	Total Value of Grants
Rec'd.	No. of Houses	Refused	With- drawn	Owner/ Occup'r	Others		
21	24	1	Nil	17	4	£20,142 9s. 2d.	£7,503 8s. 8d.

STANDARD GRANTS

APPLICATIONS				NUMBER GRANTED		Total Value of Works	Total Value of Grants
Rec'd	No. of Houses	Refused	With- drawn	Owner/ Occup'r	Others		
41	42	Nil	Nil	31	10	—	£5,710

SHOPS ACTS, 1950

Several observations have been made on alleged infringements of the Sunday Trading and Early Closing Regulations but in no case was there any need to take formal action.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS

Under the powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council, there were six licences granted for the "occasional" use of premises for stage plays and one licence for the use of cinema premises was renewed. In this connection a close liason with the County Fire Brigade exists and before any such licence is granted, the premises are inspected by both authorities.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year a total of 789 visits to premises were made by the Rodent Officer. In addition to this, the sewers, sewage works and tips have all received a good deal of attention from this Officer. This service continues to satisfy a great need within the district and there is no doubt that the service is appreciated by the various persons who have had to recourse to it.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council have continued their arrangements for securing records of Atmospheric Pollution and the following tables give details of the records for 1962.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Table 1

DEPOSIT GAUGES—RECORDS OF DEPOSITS

Deposits in Tons per Square Mile per Month.

Month	14 Millmoor Ave. Armitage	Sewage Works, Armitage	Chadwick Arms, Hill Ridware
January	5.37	12.67	11.42
February	13.34	4.97	6.82
March	12.31	8.95	6.76
April	9.84	9.73	7.10
May	52.20	8.95	14.93
June	33.75	6.22	6.62
July	13.40	11.15	8.44
August	10.68	5.74	12.60
September	7.38	8.65	9.54
October	10.84	6.86	9.43
November	9.41	9.22	6.35
December	13.20	10.10	12.81
Total	191.72	103.21	112.82
Monthly Average ...	16.44	9.14	9.40

Table 2

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	14 Millmoor Ave. Armitage	Sewage Works, Armitage	Chadwick Arms, Hill Ridware
January	1.35	2.46	1.40
February	1.18	4.02	1.00
March	1.44	2.76	1.35
April	1.00	1.49	.91
May	—	—	—
June ... ..	.47	.85	.41
July ... ..	.47	.86	.63
August ... ..	.39	.77	.56
September ... ..	.78	.81	.62
October ... ..	.79	1.06	.53
November	1.16	1.46	.79
December	1.75	2.42	1.27
Total	10.78	18.96	9.47
Monthly Average ...	.98	1.72	.86

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

After the first full year's operation of the Act it is now possible to form a more accurate judgement of its effect. It cannot be pretended that it has been fully satisfactory although it has, to some extent simplified the problem of the static caravan. Some of the problems which have gone, have however been replaced by others and considerable administrative work is involved in dealing with contraventions of this Act.

The problem most greatly affecting this Council, is however the problem of the itinerant caravan dweller. This person has no desire to occupy a house and is frequently unable for various reasons to find a licensed site on which he may park for the length of time required to conduct his business in the area. This Act does not make adequate provision for dealing with such persons. Situated as this district is, at the centre of the country with two main trunk routes intersecting, it is possible that we have a greater problem than may exist in some other authorities. Whatever the cause however, the fact remains that considerable effort on the part of the Inspectors is necessary to persuade, cajole or coerce these persons to move. Every assistance has been rendered to myself and my staff by the Police Force but the time and energy expended on this work is unproductive and frequently fruitless.

If these people are to be kept from occupying highway verges and odd corners of land throughout the district, it would appear that the most satisfactory way of doing this is by means of municipally owned sites to which such people could be directed.

The Council have licensed 48 sites within the District, six of which are recreational and provide a total of 243 caravan spaces and 42 of which are residential and provide 256 caravan spaces.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat Inspection.

The amount of meat inspected during the year continued at a very high level. There was a total of 89,531 animals slaughtered during the year and a total of 49 tons 6 cwts. and 19 lbs. of meat were condemned. These figures show an increase of 38,202 animals over the previous year and is more than the whole total killed during the year ending 31st December, 1960. This work imposed a great strain on the Inspectors carrying out this work and as a result of this the Council decided to engage one additional Inspector.

The following tables give details of the carcasses inspected and the total weight of condemned foods during the year :—

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Carcasses inspected	9599	4566	4737	54622	16007
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	11	62	36	120	23
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	197	1788	10	1158	1393
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	2.17	40.51	.97	2.34	8.85
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	2	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	32	3	—	203
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	.74	.7	—	1.27
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	2	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

All Diseases, except Tuberculosis :					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE :	Carcase Meat	...			21	3	—	12
	Offal ...	...	...		15	1	—	21
CALVES :	Carcase Meat	...			—	13	1	27
	Offal ...	...	...		—	—	—	19
SHEEP :	Carcase Meat	...			3	19	—	25
	Offal ...	...	...		1	9	—	22
PIGS :	Carcase Meat	...			2	14	—	6
	Offal ...	...	...		2	—	2	7

Tuberculosis only :

CATTLE :	Carcase Meat	...			—	13	—	24
	Offal ...	...	...		—	4	2	10
CALVES :	Carcase Meat	...			—	—	—	—
	Offal ...	...	...		—	—	—	—
SHEEP :	Carcase Meat	...			—	—	—	—
	Offal ...	...	...		—	—	—	—
PIGS :	Carcase Meat	...			1	6	2	26
	Offal ...	...	...		—	—	2	16
TOTAL					49	6	—	19

(b) Foods of Unsatisfactory Quality.

There were four complaints during the year received from members of the public regarding the condition of certain articles of food. In each case the facts were reported to the Health Committee and it was decided that the most satisfactory method of dealing with these complaints was to send a severe letter of warning to the firms concerned.

(c) Food Hygiene.

The standard of hygiene in food premises remains on the whole satisfactory. There is however no room for complacency in this matter and a total of 148 visits were made to food premises during the year. It is agreeable to report though, that full co-operation is invariably received from the various traders and difficulty rarely occurs in obtaining compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. An exception to this did occur during the year when a cafe owner became very obstructive and refused to carry out works of improvement. As a result of this the owner of the premises closed the catering.

